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SOURCE Slovar'-spravochnik po sotsial'no-ekonomicheskoy statistike, Gosplanizdat

COMPOSITION OF THE USSR WAGE BILL

There are two kinds of wage bills, the wage bill actually paid during the accounting period, and the wage bill due for work performed during the accounting period regardless of whether this work has actually been paid for. The statistics of labor are usually concerned with the wage bill due, since this is more closely connected with the work indexes of a given establishment during the accounting period, and since planning is in terms of the wage bill due.

The wage bill due includes, in their entirety, wages due from the establishment for work performed during the accounting period, regardless of whether this work was provided for by plan, or whether it was performed by workers listed as employees of the establishment or by other persons.

The article then goes on to list 23 different kinds of compensation which enter into the composition of the wage bill and concludes with the following passage:

The aforementioned wage bill due is calculated for all wage earners, salaried employees, and craftsmen in cooperatives. The wage bill due, however, is calculated not only for wage earners, salaried employees, and craftsmen in cooperatives, but also for personnel in the armed forces and for other categories of workers who are not in voluntary employment. Centrally computed statistics of labor embrace the so-called comprehensive wage bill (polnyy fond zarabotnoy platy), which includes all wage payments due both to wage earners, salaried employees, and craftsmen in cooperatives and to other personnel in the armed forces and other employment.

[Comment. The 1948 edition of Slovar' omits all reference to military personnel and to other nonvoluntary categories of workers. The omission is undoubtedly deliberate, since there is every indication that the "centrally computed statistics of labor" released after 1944 refer to the so-called "comprehensive wage bill." Thus the Fourth Five-Year Plan, published in March 1946, estimates the number of wage earners and salaried employees for

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1950 at 33.5 million, and their average annual earnings at 6,000 rubles. But the total wage bill is calculated not at 201 billion rubles (6,000 times 33,500,000) but at 252.3 billion rubles (Pravda, 21 March 1946). Similarly, the wage bill for 1947 was calculated at an even larger figure, 280 billion rubles, with a smaller labor force, 31.6 million, and presumably a lower annual wage. (O gosudarstvennom plane vosstanovleniya i razvitiya narodnogo khozyaystva SSSR na 1947 god, p 24.)

This puzzling use of two widely divergent sets of figures in reporting the wage bill is apparently of long standing in the USSR. Thus, reviewing the year 1940, Voznesenskiy reported two wage bill figures in the same article: 123.7 billion rubles and 161 billion rubles (Pravda, 19 Feb 1941); and the 1941 Plan calls for a wage bill of 175 billion rubles, while actual allocation shows a possible expenditure of only 117 billion rubles. (Gosudarstvennyy plan razvitiya narodnogo khozyaystva SSSR na 1941 god, p 512.)

The definition of the wage bill, as given in the 1944 edition of Slovar', would seem to clear up the above puzzle, but it gives rise to a new perplexity as to the actual size of the Soviet labor force. The comprehensive payroll figures of 1940, 1941, 1947 and 1950 clearly show that, in addition to the reported number of wage earners, salaried employees, and cooperative craftsmen, the USSR labor force also included many millions of "nonvoluntary categories of workers."

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